



The Burning Question
The Utah Division of Air Quality says today is a green day on the Wasatch Front. Use of coal- and wood-burning stoves or fireplaces is permitted. For updates, call 533-7239 or 800-228-5434.

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A Tale of More Tailings: Kennecott Plans \$510 Million Pile Expansion

By Mike Gorrell
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Kennecott will make a \$510 million investment during the next five years to expand its massive tailings pile north of Magna.

The impoundment, which already covers 5,700 acres, will be expanded by 4,100 acres to hold copper-ore tailings removed from the Bingham Canyon mine during the next 25 to 30 years. The company also plans to upgrade the stability of the existing tailings pile, partly through the use of

seismic-engineering techniques.

"This expansion is an integral part of the company's long-range planning that will allow us to remain competitive in the world market well into the 21st century," said Rod Davey, Kennecott's senior vice president for engineering services.

The expansion also will generate \$18 million in state and local taxes and will secure jobs that produce \$230 million in earnings for Utah workers, he said. Once an array of permits is ob-

tained, Kennecott's tailings will begin spreading northward onto property acquired several years ago from Morton Salt Co. It will take until 1998 for the site to be prepared completely to contain the 1.6 billion tons of tailings that must be disposed, said company spokeswoman Alexis Fernandez.

Until then, Kennecott will continue to use the existing pile, which ultimately will hold 1.8 billion tons of waste materials.

"You don't hop off one pile to the other overnight," Ms. Fernan-

dez said. "But gradually the tailings will be piped to just the expansion area and the existing impoundment will be reseeded."

Kennecott's pledge to reclaim the existing impoundment — and ongoing efforts to keep northerly winds from blowing dust from the pile into Magna — relieved most concerns of Magna Area Council member Jim Brusatto.

He was one of numerous Magna residents who feared their health was endangered by dust from the tailings pile when it was not monitored closely while Kennecott was shut down during the mid-1980s.

The residents, state and company worked out a solution in which an extensive sprinkling system controlled almost all releases of dust from the pile.

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JIM BRUSATTO
Magna Area Council member

tailings pile stabilized, it's OK with me. They have done a pretty good job so far," Mr. Brusatto said.

"What happens after 30 years is what we have to be concerned about. If Kennecott closes up and that pile dries up, Salt Lake County will be in trouble."

Ms. Fernandez said the permit process will assure that the tailings are not a long-term problem. Permits must be acquired from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Utah Division of

Oil, Gas and Mining and the Utah Engineer's Office.

"It will be pretty standard procedure," said Wayne Hedberg, an Oil, Gas and Mining permit supervisor. "They'll have to walk through a whole set of regulations," providing maps and detailed information about pile construction, impacts on water and plant life and reclamation plans.

Burnell Corder, Utah Division of Air Quality assistant director, does not expect Kennecott's permit to encounter problems.

S.L. District Gives Schools \$1,000 Each to Supervise Kids Before, After Classes

PTA Surveying Parents To Identify Solutions For Child Care Statewide

By Katherine Kapos
and Nancy Hobbs
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

children whose parents, or single parent, are working outside the home.

"How many children are being left alone? There are some real concerns there," Ms. Plouffe said. The children may be left on their own because there are few or no options available for supervised care, the cost is prohibi-

